



LIFE OF "MARK TWAIN," THE GREAT AMERICAN HUMORIST

Early Struggles and Adventures, Followed by Years of Successful Literary Work--Later Days Saddened Deaths and Financial Reverses.

General Langhorne Clemens, American humorist and author of "Mark Twain's Autobiography," gives his personal recollections of the life and times of the great humorist.

tion, and saw that he had made a good boy, he was satisfied. He became a pupil of Horace Greeley, who was soon guiding the awkward craft along the tortuous paths of the literary world.

The idea of his becoming an author never entered his mind, but he did have a desire to enable him to support himself.

Part of the life of the immortal:

In 1850 "Huckleberry Finn" appeared, and in the same year "The Prince and the Pauper," written in collaboration with Charles Dudley Warner, was published. "Tom Sawyer" came in 1876, and "Huckleberry Finn" followed in 1884, with an historical setting.

"The Prince and the Pauper," "A Connecticut Yankee in King Arthur's Court," and "The Man of the World" all followed in 1889 and 1893 respectively. In 1892 "The Gilded Age," "Pudd'nhead Wilson," made his home.

Misfortune Dogs Him.

But while the great humorist was making his undevoted success from a literary stand-point, the impulse of misfortune seemed to dog his steps.

In 1864 he conceived the idea of keeping the publisher's as well as his author's profits from some of his works, and accordingly forgave a stock company called C. L. Webster & Co., in which he was the largest stockholder, to publish his works, and he had accumulated considerable wealth, which was rated as his literary income.

His financial life, however, was not of the best, and in 1865 his entire fortune was swept away by the failure of the publishing house. Mr. Webster died abroad at the time, and although 60 years old, he had to get out on a tour of the giddy, delivering lectures and writing articles in order to earn his living.

He had scarcely begun to dig his way out of the hole when another hole struck him another hard blow.

This was the death of his sister and brother-in-law, Mrs. Oliver B. Clemens, who died in August, 1866, at the age of 34. Broke but not broken, he continued his great task and in two years had paid off his debts.

Wife Passes Away.

At first sympathy with her husband's misfortunes caused his health to begin to fail. He moved to Florida, in the hope that the mild climate would help him, but it proved of no avail, and on November 6, 1866, he died in that far-off land.

About this time the humorist met

the woman who was to be his wife.

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Guiding the Writer.

At first sympathy with his people, who were trying to make their lives, turned back to try to recover the strength of the mind and the spirit, which were failing. His father, though sickly, held his head high, and fought, he should be able to serve his country as a soldier if the need arises.

He was a well-meaning philosopher, who does not believe in the rightness of war.

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